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Wednesday April 17 1996

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# The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR  
46,529

**Why everybody loves the MP for Ladywood**  
**Short, sharp shock**  
G2 with European

**David Steel's son and the cannabis plant**  
**Six months up in smoke**  
G2 with European page 11

**Society**  
**Driving into oblivion**  
G2 pages 12/13

## Queen agrees to £2m divorce settlement but Sarah Ferguson is left with huge and mounting debts

# Palace cuts Duchess adrift

### First step to end marriage in court today

**Edward Pilkington**

THE Duke and Duchess of York are to divorce at the end of next month, ending four years of uncertainty about their future and heralding the final freezing out of Sarah Ferguson from the royal family.

It is understood that the duchess will be paid £2 million under the settlement in return for agreeing to be cut adrift from the monarchy. The pay-off was formulated three years ago at the time of the couple's legal separation, and is framed primarily with their children in mind.

Buckingham Palace said the Queen has been informed of the official split and was "saddened" by the news. The announcement comes five days before her 70th birthday.

The duke and duchess announced their decision to part through their solicitors, Henry Boyd-Carpenter of the firm used by the Queen, Farrer & Co, on behalf of Prince Andrew, and Douglas Alexion of Gordon Dadds for the duchess.

A joint statement from the lawyers stressed that the decision to end the marriage was taken by the royal couple. "The decision is a personal one, and theirs alone."

The comment ran counter to suggestions that the couple were under pressure from the Queen to end their marital limbo. It is understood that the Queen last month wrote to Prince Andrew urging him to divorce in terms similar to her earlier letters to the Prince and Princess of Wales, a suggestion denied by the palace.

In a further parallel with the negotiations with Princess Diana, the duchess will lose the title "Her Royal Highness", while continuing to be called the Duchess of York. The official statement said she had chosen not to take the HRH style, although the palace would almost certainly have resisted any attempt on her part to retain it.

The statement continued



The Duke and Duchess of York remain good friends despite the agreement to divorce, four years after their separation

that "at the express wish of the duke and duchess and in the interests of their children, which they regard as of paramount importance, no further statement will be made or information provided".

The children, Beatrice, aged seven, and Eugenie, six, "will continue to live with the duchess, and both parents will participate fully in their upbringing". In practice, that implies that the girls, who are fifth and sixth in line to the throne, will spend most of their time with their mother, enjoying the company of Prince Andrew only when he is on leave from naval duties.

Fears that the children will suffer from the duchess's frequent travelling strongly influenced negotiations over her financial settlement. Since March 1993, when separation was first mooted, the children's stability has been jeopardised by moves from the couple's mansion at Sunninghill into a rented home, Romana Lodge, in Surrey, and by the loss of their nanny.

A sum of £1.5 million is to be placed in trust for the girls, from which £800,000 is understood to be earmarked for a house that they will eventually own. Further money will be set aside to provide a cash income for the young princesses.

The Queen is understood to have stood her ground in refusing to bail out the duchess, who has acute financial problems. Her debts, understood to be about £3 million, are unlikely to be cleared by the settlement.

The final agreement may see the duchess paid as little as £500,000, probably not as a lump sum. Although Prince Andrew will pick up the tab for school fees and cover some of her rent out of his £240,000 allowance from the Queen, that still leaves the duchess's lavish spending and debts to account for.

The Archbishop of York said he was praying for the couple, adding that "such decisions are never made easily".

Toby Jessel, MP for Twickenham, called the duchess a "person of sheer, unadorned vulgarity, not in keeping with Britain's royal traditions". Fellow Tory John Butcher, MP for Coventry, said: "Fergie would have been more suited married to Bob Geldof than to the son of the Queen."

Lord St John of Fawley, the royal expert, said: "I hope that stories about the Yorks will disappear from the headlines now, but my hopes are greater than my expectations."

The divorce adds to the history of marital breakup in the duchess's family. When she was 14 her parents broke up after her mother, Susan, left her father for an Argentine polo player. The duchess's sister, Jane Makin, had an acrimonious divorce in 1989.

Life after divorce is likely to see the duke and duchess moving in starkly opposing directions. Prince Andrew, who is thought to have just returned from naval exercises, has been focusing on his career. The duchess, who is sitting in Switzerland with the children, has attempted to focus media attention on her charity work, particularly with the American-based Chances for Children, but has been unable to avoid publicity about her relationships and financial crisis.

The first step in the issuing of a decree nisi will take place today. The case of "HRH the Duke of York v HRH the Duchess of York" is listed among 29 uncontested divorces to be heard at the family division of the High Court in London.



**Sarah says:**  
'Andrew is a darling, but a boring darling'. 'I always pay my way'. 'Life is not about gossip or tittle-tattle, it is the air we breathe — being nice to people'. 'It wasn't that I lacked will or ability. I simply didn't know what was expected of me'.

**And what they say about her:**  
'A vulgarian . . . vulgar, vulgar, vulgar' — Lord Charteris, the Queen's former private secretary.  
'She devalues the currency' — Princess Michael of Kent.  
'She is an experienced woman who can tell me a lot' — Thomas Muster, tennis player

## Poverty, what poverty? says Lilley

**David Brindley, Social Services Correspondent**

MINISTERS are renegeing on a commitment to draw up measures to tackle poverty in Britain because they say such action is needed only in Third World countries.

The move will inflame controversy over the extent of poverty in this country. It will be seen as a stab to the United Nations, which has declared 1996 the international year for the eradication of poverty.

Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, has told welfare campaigners the Government will not be introducing a national poverty eradication plan as agreed by countries including Britain at last year's UN summit on social development in Copenhagen.

In a letter on behalf of the Prime Minister, Mr Lilley

**Rich pickings**

**Why the poor aren't poor, by Peter Lilley:**

- Food supplies are adequate
- Most have central heating
- Almost half have a car
- Three in four are on the phone
- More than half have a video recorder

says: "It is our view that the recommendations . . . principally relate to the needs of underdeveloped countries, which need to harness their economies to achieve basic goals such as the provision of clean water and adequate food supplies."

"The UK (already has) the infrastructure and social protection systems to prevent

poverty and maintain living standards."

A Foreign Office spokesman yesterday confirmed that John Major had replied in similar vein to Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the UN Secretary-General, who had asked what Britain was doing.

The Government's aid shoulder to the UN, has emerged as a report today claims poverty is growing faster in Britain than in most of Europe.

The report, published by the Child Poverty Action Group, says one in three children is growing up in poverty. In 1979, the figure was one in 10. One in four of all people is living in poverty, compared with one in seven when the Tories took office.

The Copenhagen summit in March last year was attended by Whitehall officials and Lady Chalker, Minister for Overseas Development, who signed a joint declaration and programme of action on Brit-

ain's behalf. The programme commits countries to enact national plans to "establish, within each national context, strategies and affordable time-bound goals and targets for the substantial reduction of overall poverty and the eradication of absolute poverty".

Mr Lilley's response has come after a coalition of 18 anti-poverty groups supporting the UN year, including Oxfam, Save the Children and the Low Pay Unit, inquired how Britain was fulfilling its commitment.

Paul Goggins, national co-ordinator of Church Action on Poverty pressure group, who chairs the anti-poverty coalition, said: "There can be no doubt that the programme of action requires countries to put in place a plan of poverty eradication. They must have known what they were signing up to."

## Beef crisis 'will cost 28,000 jobs and taxpayer £550m in first year'

**Paul Brown, David Hestrick and Stephen Bates**

THE beef crisis will cost 28,000 people their jobs and the taxpayer £550 million in compensation this year, the Government said yesterday as it announced a series of measures to restore confidence in the market.

John Major said he would go to the European Court of Justice to challenge the worldwide ban on British beef and ruled out a mass cull of cattle.

Instead, 40,000 tonnes of beef in cold stores are to be destroyed at a cost of £80 million. Coopers & Lybrand, the accountants commissioned to advise ministers on the crisis, do not expect the industry to recover for five years and say the ban on exports will last at least six months.

Unsold meat worth £132 million had been found, which could lead to wide-

spread company failures soon. The consultants warn that, apart from job losses in the industry, the effect will be more general unemployment, lower tax receipts and a blow to the balance of payments.

The European Court will be asked for "interim relief within weeks" and a declaration that the ban on British beef is illegal.

The Prime Minister is to write to the German, French and Italian leaders and to Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, demanding they take early action to lift the ban. This follows comments by Franz Fischler, the agriculture commissioner, that the ban was aimed at saving the European beef market, not protecting the public health.

Downing Street said Mr Major would turn to page 2, column 3.

Demand 'won't recover for five years', page 5; Leader comment, page 5.

### Prague Writers' Festival 1996

The Viola Theatre, May 9-11

This year the Prague Writers' Festival, directed by Michael March, will once again showcase a selection of fine authors from around the world. Under the festival's theme of "Ancient Evenings", writers including R.S. Thomas from Wales, Sylva Fischerová of the Czech Republic, and Jim Barnes from the USA will be presenting their work at the festival. There visitors can enjoy a rare opportunity to listen to, and meet, these renowned international authors.

For more details call: 44 (0) 171 7134133

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ASSA, which helped bring down the New Government, is now being used to help bring some medicines.

England's row with its fellow five nations competitors over television rights to Rugby Union has deepened.

Parents 4/3; Arts 5/3; Radio 16; TV 16

9 770261 307330

Sketch

Monologues take over the asylum



Simon Hoggart

MPs RETURNED to Westminster eager to discuss one of the worst humiliations ever inflicted on a great party...

about tax rises. But then he changed the subject. These days Prime Minister's Questions is in no way an interchange...

First night

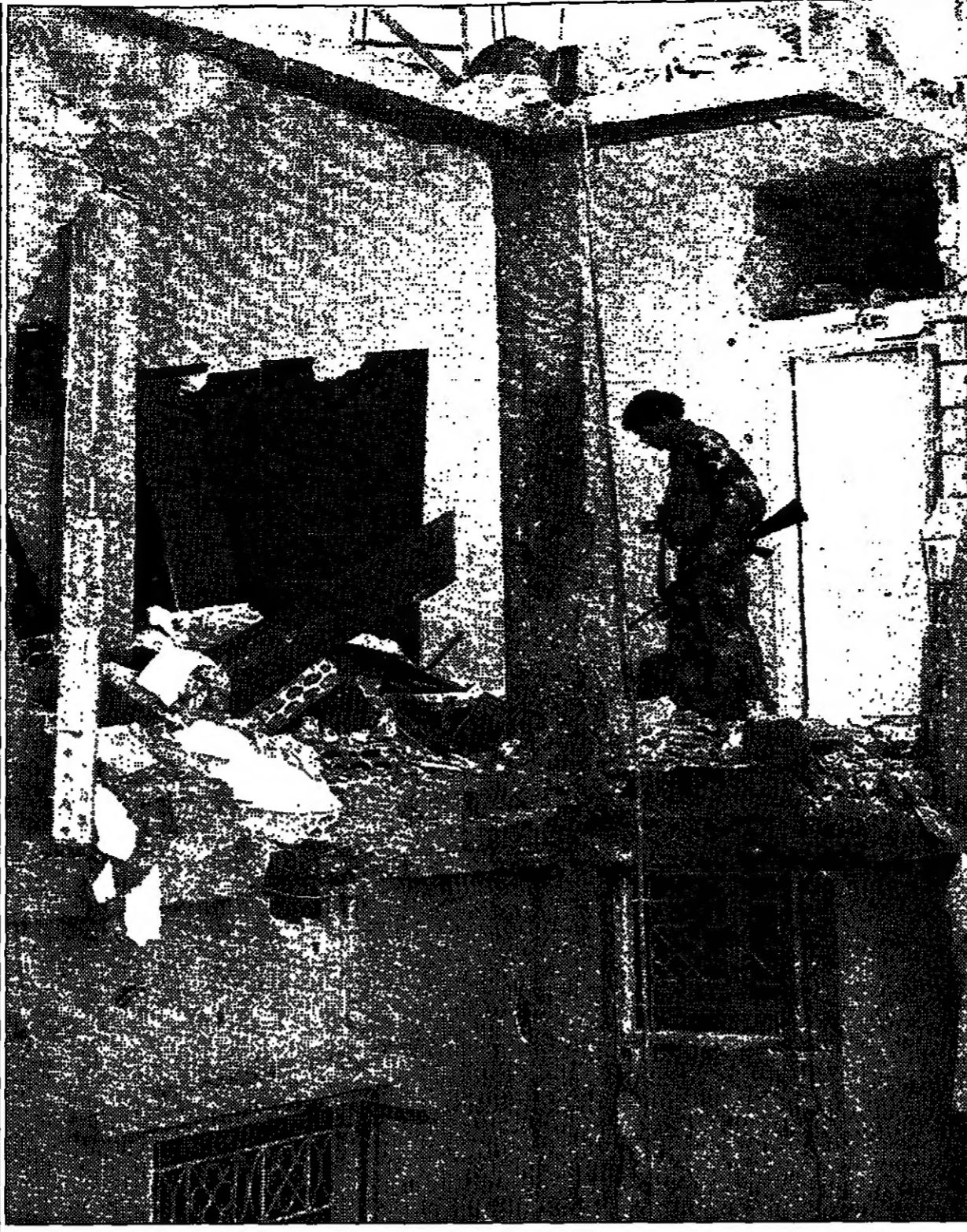
The King shakes his thang - again

Caroline Sullivan

Elvis - The Musical

THIS show has already strutted its spangly jump suit once before. After Presley died in 1977...

that the Elvster might have eaten a few too many toffeeburgers, but he was still a good boy.



A Palestinian guerrilla inspects damage in Lebanon's Ain el-Hilweh refugee camp yesterday

Israel targets Palestinian rebel

'Precision bombing' in Lebanon misses anti-Arafat commander

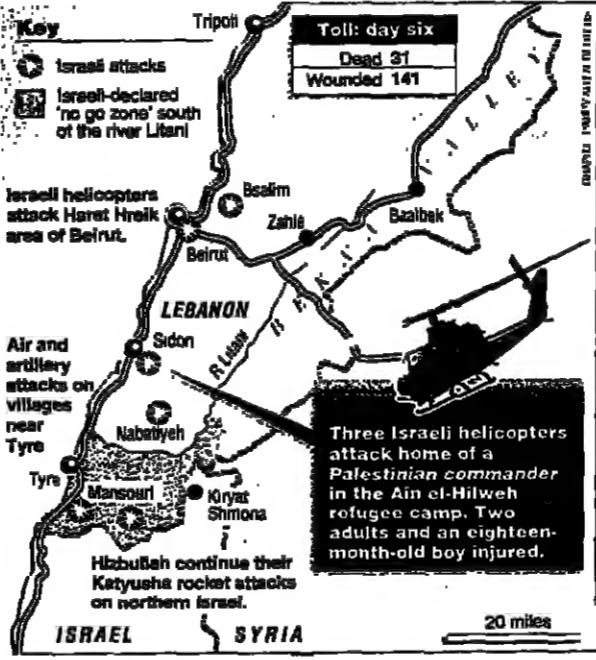
David Hirst

In Ain el-Hilweh camp

IN EHILWEH, the Palestinian refugee camp on the outskirts of Sidon, had a taste yesterday morning of what Israel had in mind when it warned that its army was 'contemplating extending its zone of operations in the region between the Zaharani and Awali rivers'...

from the sea. The structure collapsed, but - perhaps because of its flimsy materials - the young couple who lived in it came out alive...

The onslaught continues



controlled Lebanon. The Iranian ambassador visits him. He conspires openly against Mr Arafat. Eighteen months ago, Mr Arafat ordered his last loyalist forces in Lebanon to try to seize control of Ain el-Hilweh from him...

Voters fear worst from rail sell-off

Martin Kettle

THE public believes that train services will be worse, less safe and more costly after privatisation, according to a Guardian ICM poll before today's House of Commons rail debate.

Rail views

When British Rail is fully privatised do you think services will be?

Bar chart showing rail service views: Better (33), Worse (47), Don't know (20)

Conservatives remain loyal to the Government, with 34 per cent saying privatisation will mean better services...

Short taxed again by Blair lecture

Rebecca Smithers and Patrick Wintour

LABOUR transport spokeswoman Clare Short was summoned to a meeting with party leader Tony Blair yesterday in his attempt to put the lid on the row over her remark that middle income earners could pay more tax.

liant, and the importance of collective responsibility. It is the second time in six months Ms Short has had a lecture from Mr Blair on collective responsibility...

Only top 2 per cent fall into Labour's tax increase net

Larry Elliott

Economics Editor

CLARE SHORT'S suggestion that she would expect to be paid more for Labour targeted high earners is borne out by figures showing that MPs - for all their grumbling about their £34,000 salaries - are among the best paid people in Britain.

2.2 million pay the higher 40 per cent rate of tax, which kicks in at just over £33,000 for a single person.

Beef crisis 'will cost 28,000 jobs and taxpayer £550m'

continued from page 1 Major would also raise the issue with European colleagues during his visit to Moscow to discuss other problems in the wake of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

'The export ban on British beef imposed by the Community was more motivated by the interests of other countries' own beef markets than it is about public health.

Strang, the agriculture spokesman, said: 'Legal action is likely to take months to reach the courts, so it cannot be a substitute for energetic political and diplomatic action to secure an agreed lifting of the ban.'

Ramaphosa moves into South African business

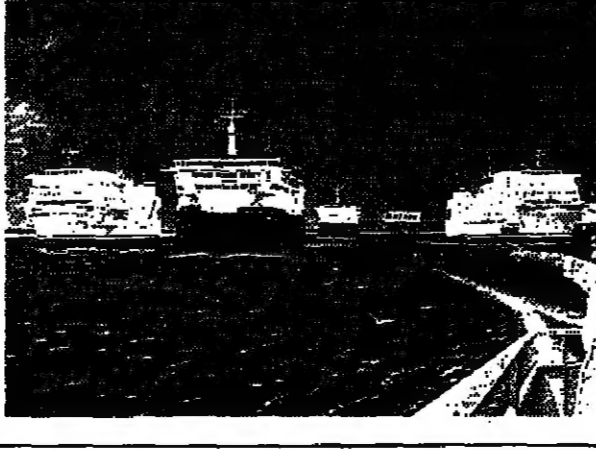
David Beresford in Johannesburg

THE former labour leader Cyril Ramaphosa has thrown himself into negotiations for one of South Africa's biggest business takeovers.

Adria's constitutional settlement has begun talks with black business and union leaders to prepare a bid to wrest control of the leading investment company Johnica from the Anglo-American corporation.

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In their hearts, many of the 5,000 present knew that Prince Charles Edward Stuart had messed up the encounter



Scots pay tribute to the 1,000 slaughtered at Culloden 250 years ago, in a battle which led to the destruction of the old clan system. PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN PAUL

## Kilted masses mourn rebellion's bloody end

Peter Hetherington joins the ceremony at Drumossie Moor

**T**HE kilted masses plodded solemnly through knee-deep heather, banners held high and ceremonial broadswords at the ready. At midday, a sizzle of musket fire and a lament on the pipes briefly shattered the peace of Drumossie Moor — followed by a minute's silence for the 1,000 slaughtered by Hanoverian military might in the last battle on British soil 250 years ago.

It was meant to be a quiet, dignified commemoration on the northern slope at Culloden, a mass mourning for the bloody end of the 1746 Jacobite rebellion which led to the destruction of the old clan system and a way of life.

In their hearts, many of the 5,000 present knew that Prince Charles Edward Stuart had messed up the encounter. His hungry and dejected troops had little suitable ammunition. His choice of ground, for men used to roaring down hill-sides, proved catastrophic. "Culloden, and its vengeful, repressive aftermath, finally called down the curtain on the medieval Highlands," noted the head of the Inverness Gaelic Society, Kenneth Macdonald, standing beside a 30ft high cairn, the battlefield memorial. Tartan and the Gaelic language were banned, and thousands were "cleared" from the land.

While wreaths were laid by nationalist republicans,

House of Stuart monarchists — for a pretender still lives — and the old clan chiefs, Mr Macdonald spoke of the "romantic mist" of a Bonnie Prince. In fact, a desperate, even reckless, adventure had encountered a harsh "political and military reality". Like the British state.

Many put the events into a contemporary context — not least Belgium-born and Edinburgh-based "Prince" Michael James Alexander.

**'Culloden was a devastating blow to our history — it was a very sad, cruel event'**

Stuart, seventh Count of Albany. He claims to be a direct descendant of the Bonnie Prince and the rightful King of Scotland.

He came to Scotland 20 years ago and works as a public relations consultant. "I just wanted to come and live here because, well, we belong. People hate exiles."

His bodyguard, Jock Robertson, a garage owner from East Lothian, thought too many seemed intent on doing down the Bonnie Prince — with much talk of womanising and drunkenness. "They've been at this propaganda for years."

Events moved from the

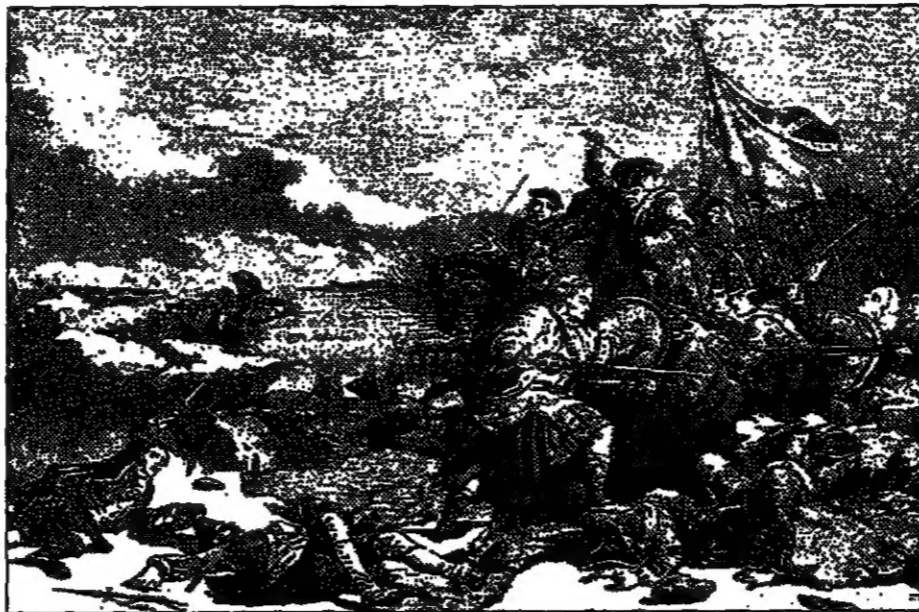
sombre to the farcical as a lone red coat began wandering around the battlefield. Had Gordon Raynor, a retired engineer from south Cumbria and a military weapons enthusiast, taken leave of his senses?

No. He just wanted to show the flag. "I've got lots of Scottish friends and they respect me," he claimed. Then he reconsidered. "Actually, one or two have called me a bastard today."

And much worse, as it turned out. As he explained his patriotic mission, a kilted Scot interrupted. "You feel comfortable pal, do you? What about all that genocide? Down with all Brits — get out."

"It wasn't so much genocide as culture-cide," volunteered Derek Stewart of the White Cockade Society (named after the Jacobite emblem) which re-enacts battle scenes and fired the muskets at midday. "Quite a few Scots fought with that butcher Cumberland. It wasn't all black and white."

Some clan chiefs, with their impeccably clipped English upper class tones, prepared their pipes for a final flourish. Donald MacLaren, from Perthshire, aged 40, head of the Clan MacLaren, in full Highland gear, was typical. "We're not making a political statement. We're not being mawkish about the past, but Culloden was a devastating blow to our history — a very sad, cruel event."



The battle of Culloden, painted by R. R. M'lan

## IRA bomber 'laid plans for months'

David Pallister

**E**DWARD O'Brien, who blew himself up on a bus in central London in February, was an experienced and committed terrorist who had been planning a mainland bombing campaign throughout the period of the IRA ceasefire, an inquest was told yesterday.

Before the visit to Ireland by President Bill Clinton last October the 21-year-old was collecting intelligence and preparing his bombs in a south London flat, Paul Knappman, the Westminster coroner, was told.

Detective Superintendent William Emerton, of the anti-terrorist branch, said O'Brien was probably responsible for the unexploded bomb placed in a telephone box in the West End of London three days before the Aldwych blast.

The bomb had been placed in a Jaguar holdall, similar to one found in O'Brien's flat.

Mr Emerton said that after O'Brien arrived in London from Co Wexford he worked as a labourer and made friends in the pubs and clubs around Lewisham. "But I can prove that from August 1994 O'Brien was in London operating on behalf of the IRA and indulging in criminal activity."

Two witnesses yesterday recalled the shock of the explosion.

Constable Miles Manning told the coroner's court there was "an almighty explosion, one of the biggest bangs I have ever heard."

He hurried to the ground, picking himself up he ran to the scene. "As I came round the corner there was complete and utter silence. No movement at all."

He saw O'Brien inside the mangled bus. "He looked as if he was sitting on a seat. It was obvious he was dead. His legs had been blown off."

A 9mm Walther pistol lay on the ground.

Paris Valentine, a solicitor, was sitting at the back of the lower deck, reading a book. "There was a loud thud and a piercing sound going through my mind. Everything became still and I was surrounded by complete darkness and sparks of light passing in front of my eyes." He sustained cuts and a perforated eardrum.

Allen Feraday, the Government's leading forensic expert on bombs, said O'Brien's flat contained 16 one-hour time and power units, four electronic detonators and six 2.5kg blocks of Semtex. He said the bomb could have gone off because of poor design, faulty equipment or possibly through electro-magnetic interference.

O'Brien would have died instantly, said Iain West of Guy's hospital. Besides blowing his legs off the blast collapsed his lungs and lacerated his body with shrapnel.

Commander John Griev, the head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch, said: "Inquiries are still going on and there are a number of very positive leads."

Returning a verdict of accidental death, the coroner praised members of the public who helped the injured driver and another passenger.

Of O'Brien he said: "I would extend sympathy to his family but it is clear that whilst embarking on this potentially murderous crime he was the author of his own misfortune."

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Hogg announces BSE action plan to 'get industry moving' but measures fail to convince those at sharp end of crisis

# Beef exports 'will take five years to recover'

Paul Brown on a bleak industry report

**T**HE Government's BSE action plan was drawn up after a report commissioned from the accountants Coopers & Lybrand painted a bleak picture for the future of the industry, worth £2.8 billion a year before the BSE crisis. It says: "There is a genuine crisis in the industry and urgent action is needed."

Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Secretary, said yesterday that the immediate task was to get the industry moving again so that beef could get from the farm to the public who still wanted to buy it.

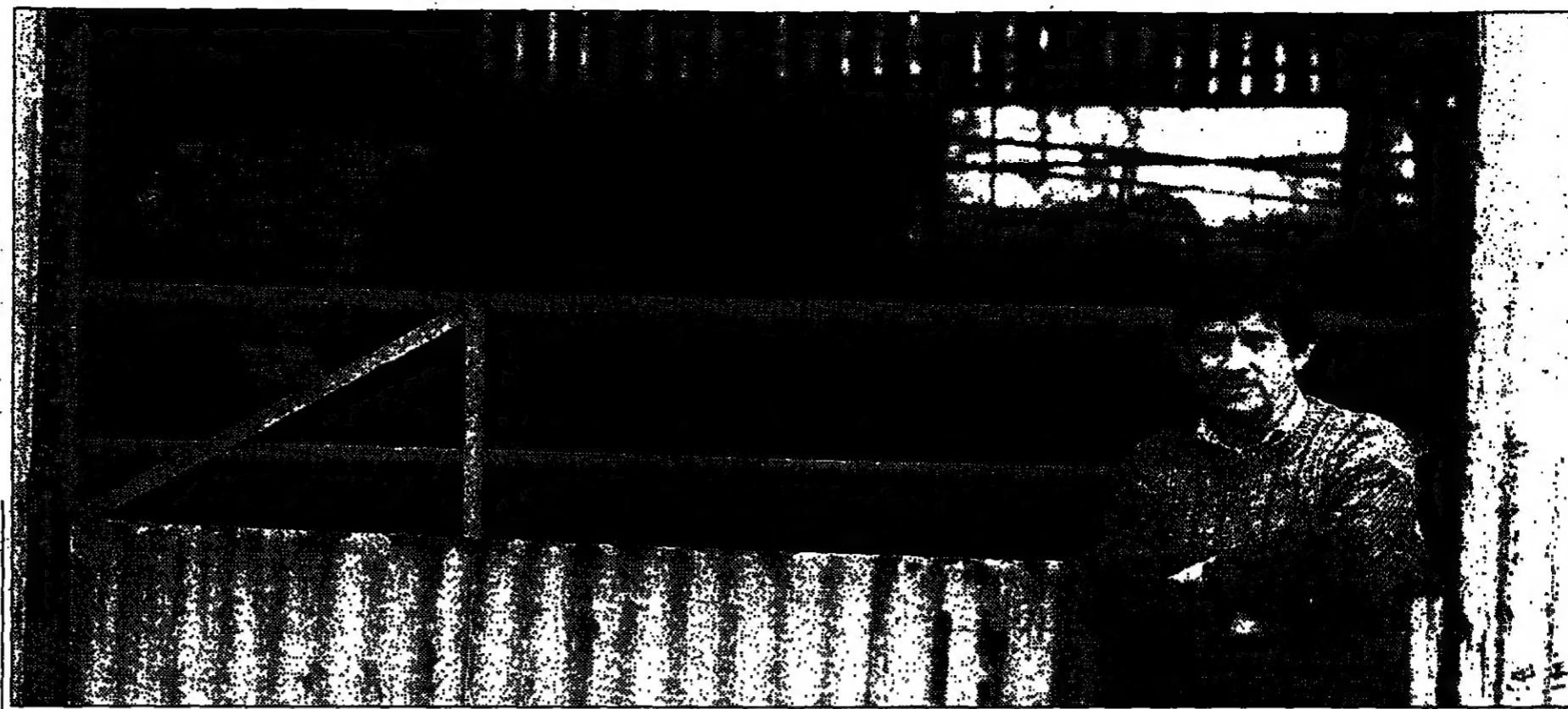
This meant removing the "blockages" of stocks in store. To protect farmers from price reductions and stave off a chain of threatened bankruptcies, the Government was prepared to subsidise market prices by up to 25p a kilo until prices regained pre-scare levels.

Another scheme, to be announced soon, for allowing animals over 30 months back into the food chain was also being formulated. This was for specialist beef herds where there was no BSE and the cattle had been fed on grass and feed which could not have contained any BSE infection.

The Coopers & Lybrand report is based on the assumption that current loss of exports would continue for at least six months, and that it was unlikely to fully recover within five years. Farmers would be forced to continue selling cattle, however, and the Government should aim for a much reduced slaughtering and processing industry sufficient to meet demand.

According to the report, lost export revenues for the industry was £10 million a week, which could not be recovered in the short term. There was a further £15 million a week lost in revenue from slaughtering cattle that could no longer go into the food chain. The accountants estimated that the beef industry was already 45 per cent over capacity and, as a result of the crisis, a large number of slaughterhouses and meat processors would have to close. Estimated job losses as a result of the closure of between one quarter and one third of abattoirs was 6,000 to 8,000, and at meat processing plants 15,000 to 20,000. Total losses in the industry might reach 28,000. "The damage to the infrastructure is likely to be huge and unrecoverable in the medium term."

The Country Landowners' Association, which represents 50,000 rural businesses said it believed the Government's measures would put the industry back on its feet. "We agree wholeheartedly with the commitment to no mass slaughter of healthy productive cattle," Ewen Cameron, the president, said.



Edward Wardell with his cattle in Llynn, Cheshire, yesterday, as he ponders Hogg's Commons statement

## Minister fails to lift gloomy farmers

As MPs listened to Commons statement, David Ward tested mood in beef industry

**A**S THE strobing pink jacket of Labour's Harriet Harman gave way to the sober suit and concerned expression of Agriculture Minister Douglas Hogg, beef farmer Edward Wardell set his video to record the Commons statement and prepared to take notes.

Mr Hogg outlined plans to help farmers, slaughterers, processors and renderers and said: "These should enable the industry to plan ahead with confidence."

Mr Wardell, partner in 150-acre Great Oak Farm at Llynn, Cheshire, did not share the minister's optimism. "I'm disappointed," he admitted. "They appear to be a lot more confident than I am."

He reviewed his notes and concluded that government assistance would apply to only a handful of the farm's 370 cattle.

These animals are over 30 months old and so cannot be sold into the food chain. Now Mr Hogg has promised

a temporary 25p per kilo premium on top of a previously announced 86p per kilo offer of help. "But he has not done anything that would increase the value of all the rest of the cattle under 30 months," complained Mr Wardell. "He seems to hope that market forces will put that right."

Before the Government's announcement of a possible link between BSE and CJD last month, he would buy cattle from markets in Cheshire and Carlisle and feed them up for six months. Each week about 15 fattened beasts would go to an abattoir in Colne, Lancashire, and then on to

the shelves of a major supermarket chain. But for the first three weeks of the new BSE crisis, no cattle left Great Oak Farm and none arrived. "If we couldn't sell, we couldn't buy," Mr Wardell said.

Mr Wardell managed to sell a few bulls last week for about £640 a head, compared with £730 before the scare. He glanced around a shed containing 120 animals. "No bulls of this age have ever been found with BSE. I know people tend to think that farmers are always after something, but without compensation, the business cannot continue."

### What it means on the farm

Tony Evans runs a beef farm in Essex. This is what the measures announced by Douglas Hogg will mean to him.

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## CJD deaths from hormone 'were avoidable'

Clare Dyer  
Legal Correspondent

**T**HE deaths of young people infected with CJD by treatment with human growth hormone were a "dreadful tragedy" which was avoidable, the High Court was told yesterday.

Robert Owen QC, representing families of eight victims, said they had died aged between 20 and 34 after being injected as children with the hormone, extracted from the pituitary glands of corpses. In all, 18 people, treated with the hormone for abnormally short stature, have died, but half the families are ineligible for legal aid. A 17th is dying.

Mr Owen told Mr Justice Morland that the victims had died from Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease — the human equivalent of mad cow disease — after receiving treatment between 1969 and 1985, when the programme ended suddenly after the first deaths were reported in the US. Since 1985, genetically engineered hormone has been used.

He said the action against the Medical Research Council, which was responsible for the programme until 1977, and the Department of Health, which took over, would have wide implications. Many of the 1,885 people treated had suffered psychiatric harm and lived with the fear that they might be infected with a fatal disease. The future conduct of their cases depended on the outcome of the trial.

The MRC and the Department of Health deny negligence and say they had no duty of care towards the children. They argue that because of their status as a research body and a government department, it would not be fair to make them liable.

The families allege that the department and the Medical Research Council were negligent in not taking account of evidence since 1968 that CJD was transmissible, in not ensuring that pituitaries from dementia sufferers were screened, and in not using the safest method of extraction. An animal virologist suggested to the MRC in 1977 that no pituitaries from people who had suffered from dementia should be used, but this was not implemented until 1980. The hearing continues.

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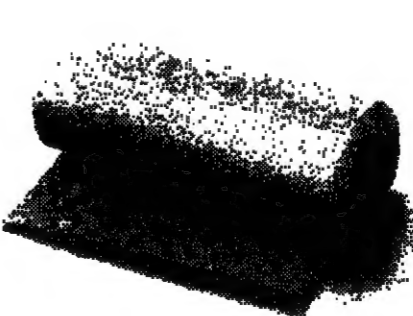
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Policy Renewal Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Terraced House:  Detached Bungalow:   
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Clinton administration turns peacemaker as the rumble of war grows fainter

# Washington in Lebanon peace push

Martin Walker in Washington and Ian Black in London

THE United States launched an effort yesterday to end the fighting in Lebanon, which has raged for six days. The move was welcomed by Tel Aviv but Beirut said the proposed ceasefire terms were hard to accept.

Rafik al-Hariri said after talks on the proposed deal with US diplomats in Saudi Arabia: "Our first impression is that there is a difficulty in accepting it." The main sticking-point for Lebanon is likely to be US and Israeli insistence on disarming Hizbullah fighters in return for an Israeli commitment to pull out of the southern "security zone".

## US's six-point plan to store the grapes of wrath

- Lebanon guarantees the security of settlements in northern Israel.
- Katyusha rocket attacks on northern Israel stop.
- Guerrilla attacks against Israeli soldiers inside Israel's security zone in south Lebanon stop in return for an Israeli

declaration that it has no demands in Lebanon and is willing to discuss pulling out its forces if the Lebanese army provides security in south Lebanon for nine months.

● Israel demands the disarming of Hizbullah and maintains its right to attack the group if it resumed its terrorist activities.

were made just hours after many countries had condemned Israel at the United Nations, where Arab countries accused it of "senseless aggression" and the US warned that it would block any resolution condemning the Jewish state.

## Hizbullah 'bowing to bombardment'

Derek Brown in Kiryat Shmona and Jessica Berry in Tel Aviv

THE Israeli army reported a "marked decrease" yesterday in the number of rocket attacks launched across its border by Hizbullah in southern Lebanon.

due to the activity of the IDF [Israeli defence forces], he said. Their capability to launch attacks has been markedly reduced as a result of precision-guided bombing and other means.



After the storm... A man in Nabatiyah walks through his shop, which was destroyed by Israeli shelling yesterday, the sixth day of aerial and artillery bombardment of Beirut and south Lebanon. PHOTOGRAPH: KAMEL JASER

But a top Israeli military officer hinted that the bombardment of southern Lebanon and Beirut might continue.

"We ask the public to be patient. It's not a blitz," he said. "The fact we are willing to pay the price of time... is because we don't want casualties other than Hizbullah."

Yesterday three salvoes of Katyusha rockets landed in northern Israel. One hit western Galilee, near the Mediterranean coast, wounding a woman.

He added that several options remained that might extend the number of targets and increase strikes against Lebanon's infrastructure.

Hizbullah, under intense Israeli aerial and artillery attack for the past six days, have returned fire with Katyushas on each day of the bombardment, but their firepower is diminishing, according to Israeli military spokesman Colonel Ranan Gissin.

He denied that Israel was targeting civilians and blamed their deaths on Hizbullah's use of civilian shelters.

# Clintons 'denied justice on Whitewater'

Martin Walker in Washington

PARTISANS of President and Mrs Clinton in the Whitewater affair have started to counter-attack, claiming that the legal and congressional inquiries are becoming poisoned by Republican politics, as public interest in the affair wanes.

general, claiming that Mr Starr's role denies the Clintons impartial justice, and asking for a review of his role.

after Congress refused to continue funding and authorisation for his special committee on Whitewater.

of his allegation that Mr Clinton, the then-governor of Arkansas, pressured him to make an illegal loan to keep the Whitewater company afloat.

A former solicitor-general in the Bush administration, Mr Starr was appointed to investigate Whitewater by the Resolution Trust Corporation — the federal agency responsible for clearing up the bankruptcy of Mr McDougal's Madison Guaranty Bank, the main source of finance for Whitewater.

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## Madonna with child as material girl comes over all maternal

MADONNA, the raunchy sex goddess of the 1980s, has completed her transformation into the matronly star of the film *Evita*, by announcing that she is expecting a baby.

The father is her personal fitness trainer for the last 18 months, Carlos Leon, and the child is due in September — well after the scheduled completion of the \$60 million film of the hit musical.

"We are doing everything possible to accommodate her condition and to keep to the schedule," Alan Parker, the film's director, said.

"She has been splendid throughout, utterly profes-

sional, and giving the performance of her life. I'm very happy for her."

Divorced in 1989 from Sean Penn, the star of the film *Dead Man Walking*, Madonna lived with a succession of men and women before settling down with Mr Leon last year.

Last December she told interviewers: "My biological clock is ticking so loud, I may run an ad for a suitable father." She had just turned 37.

"Madonna doesn't want this to be a big deal," her spokeswoman, Liz Rosenberg, told reporters on the Budapest film set yesterday. "But she is deliciously happy and so is everybody close to her."

I hate to resort to cliché, especially about Madonna, but she's radiant."

### News in brief

## More than 300 die in Burundi clashes

MORE than 300 people, mostly civilians, have been killed in a wave of Hutu rebel attacks in Burundi in the past two weeks, United Nations sources said yesterday. The dead, they added, included a commando colonel killed on Sunday by more than 100 armed Hutu rebels in a raid on Bukirasazi commune, south of the central town of Gitega.

## Economic policy U-turn

VENEZUELAN President Rafael Caldera has announced a sweeping economic adjustment programme that returns the country to the Latin American vogue for free market reform.

## Patten blamed for protests

ACOMMUNIST Party organ in Hong Kong yesterday denounced Governor Chris Patten as the "behind the curtain" orchestrator of street protests which it said threatened "social chaos".

## Russia seeks talks role

RUSSIA insisted yesterday that it should have a role in negotiations to settle tensions on the Korean peninsula, after the US proposed four-way talks with North and South Korea and China.

## Olympic visitors warning

NON-EUROPEAN visitors to the Sydney Olympic Games in the year 2000 should be warned they could be beaten up by police who mistake them for Aborigines, a leading academic said yesterday.

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Juppé resists drift to National Front hard line

# Gaullists split over immigrant policy

Paul Webster in Paris

**P**ARLIAMENTARY proposals to reduce illegal immigrants' access to education and health services have deepened a split inside the Gaullist-led cabinet and raised a storm of protest from human rights organisations.

Rightwing MPs have been accused of trying to compete with the racist National Front, which has stepped up its anti-immigration campaign in the run-up to the 1996 general election.

A recent opinion poll showed 38 per cent of the electorate in favour of the extremist movement's racist programme.

A parliamentary commission's proposals — handed to the prime minister, Alain Juppé, yesterday — reflect tough policies being prepared by the interior minister, Jean-Louis Debré, who plans to ask the national assembly today to approve a bill making it the equivalent of a terrorist offence to shelter an illegal immigrant.

Human rights organisations are preparing a national demonstration in June against what they consider government encouragement of intolerance towards immigrants. But Mr Juppé is among ministers opposing tighter restrictions because he fears a popular backlash against the MPs' demands, which include fingerprinting African visitors.

Le Monde was among newspapers which attacked a rightwing drift towards National Front policies. It said some government party members, paralysed by the growing popularity of Jean-Marie Le Pen's party, were ready to destroy fundamental republican rights to please voters.

The parliamentary commission's chairman, Jean-Pierre Philbert, a member of the Union for French Democracy (UDF), said MPs wanted 46 changes, including tighter frontier controls, stricter detention conditions and expulsions made easier.

The proposed laws would make it difficult for illegal im-

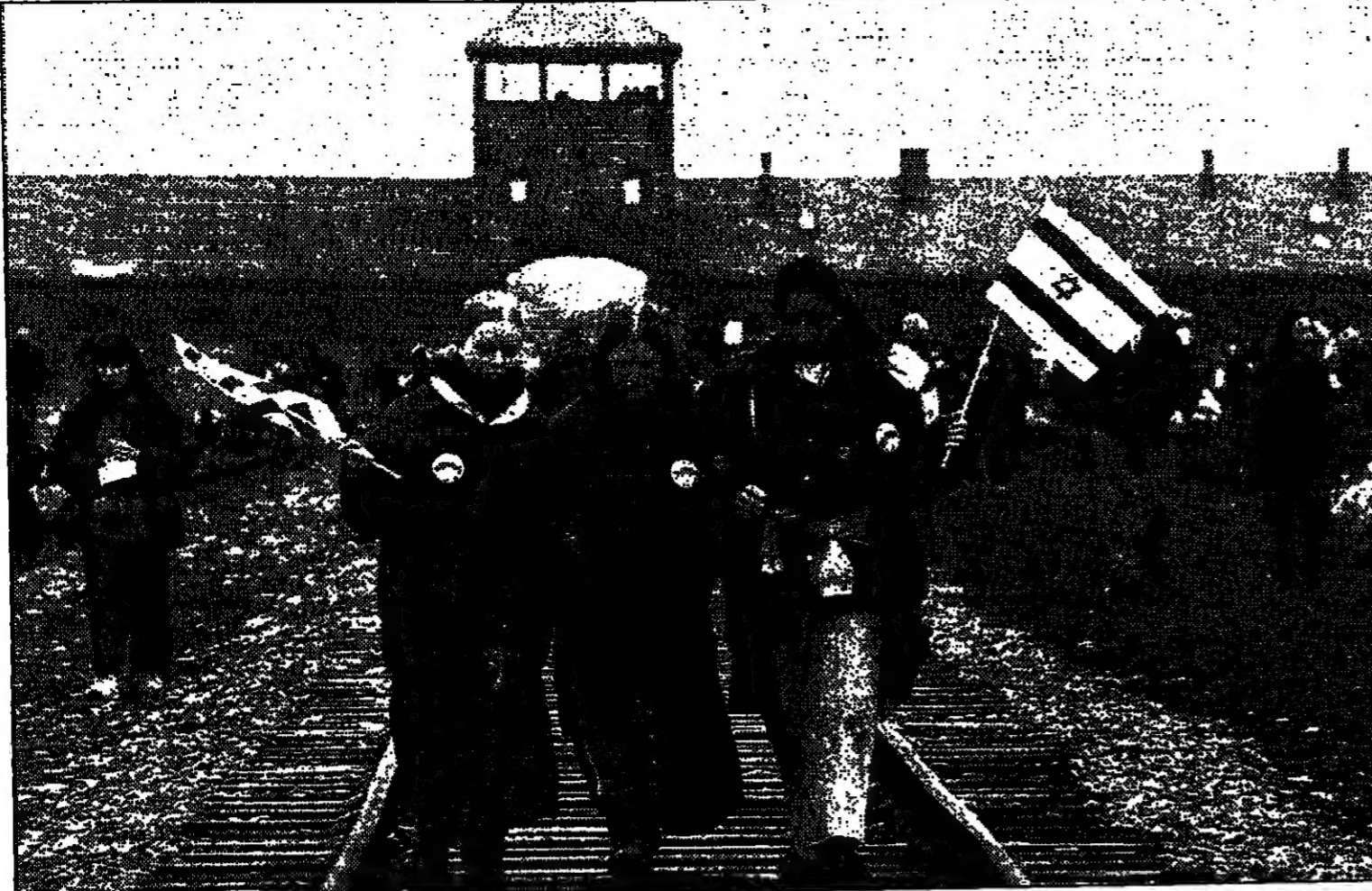
migrants to get hospital treatment, council housing and schooling, and they would no longer qualify for child allowances.

One Gaullist commission member, Alain Marsaud, denied that the commission had based its recommendations on measures soon to be announced by Mr Debré — a fellow Gaullist — but several of the proposals are similar to plans being considered by the interior minister.

One critic of tougher laws is the former interior minister Charles Pasqua, whose 1989 anti-immigration measures have been the subject of continuous protest. He said the laws against illegal immigration were already strong enough but not being fully enforced.

Last year more than 45,000 visitors were declared illegal immigrants and ordered to leave French territory but fewer than 11,000 were eventually expelled, because of bureaucratic delays or appeals.

The total number was almost the same as in 1992.



Committed to memory... Some 6,000 young Jews yesterday commemorated the victims of the Holocaust in the March of the Living, a two-mile walk between Auschwitz and Birkenau, the Nazi death camps in Poland where more than a million people, most of them Jews, died. PHOTOGRAPH: ALIX KEPLER

# Nato rules out Moscow offer

David Hearst in Riga

**J**AVIER SOLANA, Nato's secretary-general, yesterday bluntly dismissed a Russian compromise allowing former Warsaw pact countries to join Nato as political rather than fully fledged military members.

Speaking in Lithuania at the start of his tour of Baltic countries, Mr Solana said: "I rule it out because I do not know what it means."

His comments will give fresh impetus to a common approach to full Nato membership being prepared by all three Baltic countries, but will do nothing to ease Russian political concern at the alliance's growing military influence in central and eastern Europe.

The three Baltic states, which once formed the western military flank of the Soviet Union, are eager to exploit the growing east-west rift, believing that they will benefit by it.

Latvia's foreign minister, Valdis Birkavs, said Russia could not claim a right of veto on membership. He said: "Russia can't be ignored, but it is not the right approach to follow only Russia's complaints. We want dialogue, not subordination."

Latvia, which claims a strip of land on its western border occupied by Russia, is awaiting Nato's announcement of its expansion plans. It will not be among the first wave of new members, but the terms of the announcement, the timing and the conditions of entry will help east European states in the queue to know what Nato has in mind.

Dr Birkavs said: "My feeling is that the enlargement process is going a bit slowly, because the understanding of how sophisticated and complex this process is is already there."

He said Latvia understood the dangers of creating a new line of confrontation in Europe but regarded its participation in the Partnership for Peace programme, and its Ror presence in Bosnia, as part of its national security.

"No one can give us security guarantees, words that can't be broken, but Nato's enlargement is a process and security is also a process and

we don't want to be outside that process," he said.

He added that without stability in the Baltics there would be no stability in Europe. "Certainly, Nato enlargement is not targeted against Russia, but it is targeted at stability."

In Moscow, however, antagonism towards Nato's expansion is growing. Polish and Hungarian accession to Nato would be unwelcome but tolerated; the Baltics would be a different matter.

Leading Russian military strategists have warned that Moscow could respond by repositioning tactical short-range nuclear missiles on its western borders.

Viktor Mikhailov, Russia's atomic energy minister, has even suggested bombing Czech bases if the republic becomes part of Nato's military infrastructure.

Other Russian military strategists have focused on Nato's use of bases in Hungary for its Bosnia operation.

Russia's conventional armed forces have been weakened by 10 years of reform and the disbandment of some of the fighting units withdrawn from eastern Europe. Russia also feels the loss of its traditional arms market in eastern Europe and is sensitive to Germany's growing economic influence there.

Latvia's relationship with Moscow has been turbulent, complicated by the presence of a large minority of ethnic Russians, Ukrainians and other nationalities to whom it is denying citizenship. Today, Dr Birkavs says, the relationship is "so-so".

He said: "We are working to have better relations and we are being tolerant."



Solana: added to Russian fears of Nato enlargement

# Baltics may be losers in move to limit expansion

John Palmer in Brussels

**N**ATO governments are ready to limit the future expansion of the alliance to just three countries in central Europe — the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland — in an effort to overcome Russian objections to enlargement.

In effect, the member governments will indefinitely freeze further Nato enlargement to other central European countries or to the Baltic states.

In return, Nato hopes that whoever wins the Russian presidential election in June will co-operate actively in building a comprehensive collective security order covering the whole continent.

When they meet in Brussels in December, Nato foreign ministers are expected to confirm their intention to move to the next stage of enlargement. Negotiations could begin first with the Czechs and either simultaneously or shortly after with Hungary and Poland, with the prospect of the three becoming full members by the year 2000.

But Nato will insist that it is too soon to consider any further applications from other countries in the region, disappointing the Baltic states of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. They fear that exclusion could send a misleading signal to Moscow.

This week the Finnish prime minister, Paavo Lipponen, warned that an agreement with Russia could split Eastern Europe into apparent pro-Nato and pro-Russian groups. The Finnish government wants to discuss the issues raised by limited expansion with the Nato secretary-general, Javier Solana.

Quite apart from Russian objections to the Baltic states being included, Western governments are concerned about political developments in Slovakia and Bulgaria, and questions regarding minority rights in Romania.

There have been reports that some Slovak and Bulgarian leaders are reconsidering their pro-Nato strategy in favour of closer links with a possible confederation involving Russia, Belarus and some other former Soviet republics.

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Diary

Matthew Norman

THERE is a scene in 1984 in which Winston's perception of the truth (the number of fingers held up) is altered by the huge electric current running through his brain...

THE annual Queen's Awards for Exports list has just arrived. What a pity it is 'strictly embargoed' until Sunday...

THE Daily Mail has been friendly to Mandy Mandelson simply because he spent Easter in the Far East...

LAST week was a success story for Labour. The by-election was even more than expected. It left Tory claims of political and economic recovery in tatters...

ANY thanks to Prince Edward for nailing the partitions in his speech. We are forever being told we have a rigid class structure...

IN its bid to reassure the self-employed that there is nothing to fear about the new system of tax returns, the Inland Revenue has produced a booklet...

MICHAEL Winner: a correction. It was wrongly stated in the Guardian yesterday that Mr Michael Winner, the food critic and sports pundit...



Testing market for the middle classes

Commentary

John Gray

WHAT does it mean to be middle class nowadays? Last week, in an interview for the Today programme, John Prescott observed that, though his social origins are working class...

have that our economic lives are riskier than they were in the past is not simply wary about the prospect of unemployment. It is the fear that, though unemployment may be lower in Britain than in the rest of Europe...

Along with the deformation of the professions by government-sponsored managerialism has come a vast expansion of contract work. It is this that gives the best clue to middle-class angst...

tion of the job by the growth of contract work tends to make working life fractured and, for many people, permanently provisional...

Their incomes are so unpredictable, they cannot easily save, take out a mortgage or plan for a pension

skills. In an ironic inversion of the confident forecasts of countless sociology textbooks, the middle classes find themselves closer to the condition of working people...

Was Clare Short right to speak out? No, argues Donald Dewar, who demands a united front against the Tories; but Tony Benn, below, takes a more relaxed view

Don't rock the roll

LAST week was a success story for Labour. The by-election was even more than expected. It left Tory claims of political and economic recovery in tatters...



At this stage of course we cannot give detailed figures about the immediate arithmetic, but then the Chancellor can't predict the contents of his next Budget...

This is not a new repressant built by experience over time and applying to all parties. As early as 1883 Gladstone was gently rebuking Joe Chamberlain for getting out of line with agreed policy...

Members on the front bench are the party's front-line ambassadors and must put the party's case at all times. They must inevitably make decisions and must be able to trust colleagues to stand by them...

In recent years discipline and good order have become Labour's hallmarks. The Tories have been divided by incompetence and civil war. As the election nears, these standards of discipline must be maintained...

Tricks of the cabinet trade

THE highly publicised rebuke to Ron Davies for his comments on the Prince of Wales and the heavy press-briefing against Clare Short for even suggesting that taxation might need to be raised under a Labour government...

split and hence unfit for government. In fact, collective cabinet responsibility is a very flexible concept, as came out when Mrs Thatcher put a parliamentary question to Jim Callaghan in June 1977...

and the shadow cabinet. Democracy is about representation and discussion, and open debate is much preferable to the leaking and briefing which fuels the media with speculation...

tempts made by successive party leaders to impose the tightest possible discipline on their cabinet colleagues. I learned that there were ways of getting what had to be said that kept just within the rules...

Labour morale slumped and the Tories won a landslide. Maybe the shadow Budget presented in 1992 was also a mistake because as Chancellor of the Exchequer can decide what has to be done until he gets into the Treasury and opens the books...

The woman who should run the UN



Victoria Britain

AFTER a week in which war has plunged the civilian population of two countries - Lebanon and Liberia - into the miseries of sudden death, displacement and hunger...

THE less-than-straight-forward recent UN attempts to solve him of responsibility for this, following an evaluation of the Rwanda genocide produced by dozens of independent specialists...

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# Finance Guardian



Pedal power... Author Colin Dexter, with a student as his driver, was one of the first customers as the Oxford Rickshaw Company rolled yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: THE OBSERVER

## Asda fights drug pricing

### Euro-challenge to medicines cartel

Commission in an effort to force the drug companies and other high-street chemists to scrap the retail price maintenance on over-the-counter drugs.

Asda said the price controls infringe the Treaty of Rome, and that it was urging the commission to deal with the matter promptly.

However, the National Pharmaceutical Association, which represents more than 10,000 pharmacists across the country, immediately condemned Asda's action.

## Minister admits PFI merely way to save money

### MPs sceptical as Jack promises more bangs for the buck, writes Larry Elliott

The NHS could be starved of investment if the PFI failed to deliver. "The concern is that capital spending in health will be cut on the basis of expected PFI investment that has yet to materialise."

## Bid gossip and spending news push share prices to new highs

FRESH flurry of bid speculation, coming on top of this week's news of an apparent recovery in consumer spending, sent share prices racing to record levels again yesterday.

### Chileans issue bribery writ against City copper dealer

Chile's state-owned metal producer, Codelco yesterday issued a writ alleging bribery against a second London-based commodity trading company as the investigation into the City's lucrative copper market intensifies.

### Telecom talks change pitch as top executives play C&W

Merger talks between British Telecom and Cable & Wireless moved into top gear yesterday when their chairman and chief executives met for the first time to consider recommendations from their financial advisers.

### Merger 1

Merger talks between British Telecom and Cable & Wireless moved into top gear yesterday when their chairman and chief executives met for the first time to consider recommendations from their financial advisers.

## Notebook

### Feelgood factor banishes nerves



Edited by Patrick Donovan

THE City may be in the process of overcoming its hang-up about the very real possibility of a Labour government. For weeks, highly paid strategists have put the Footsie's listless performance down to market fears about the political uncertainty.

### PFI substitute

THOSE who have watched the Private Finance Initiative unfold over the past four years have known for some time that it's a disaster waiting to happen.

### Reducing pills

ASDA was last year very largely responsible for destroying the Net Book Agreement. Now they seem bent on throwing open the drugs market to a discount bonanza by challenging the retail price maintenance agreement which pegs the prices that chemists can charge for over-the-counter medicines.

### Merger 2

SIX thousand shareholders of Union Bank of Switzerland in Zurich's Hallen Station yesterday delivered a vote of confidence in the board of the bank, electing the outgoing chief executive Robert Studer and three other candidates to the board by a margin of almost 63 per cent.

TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS

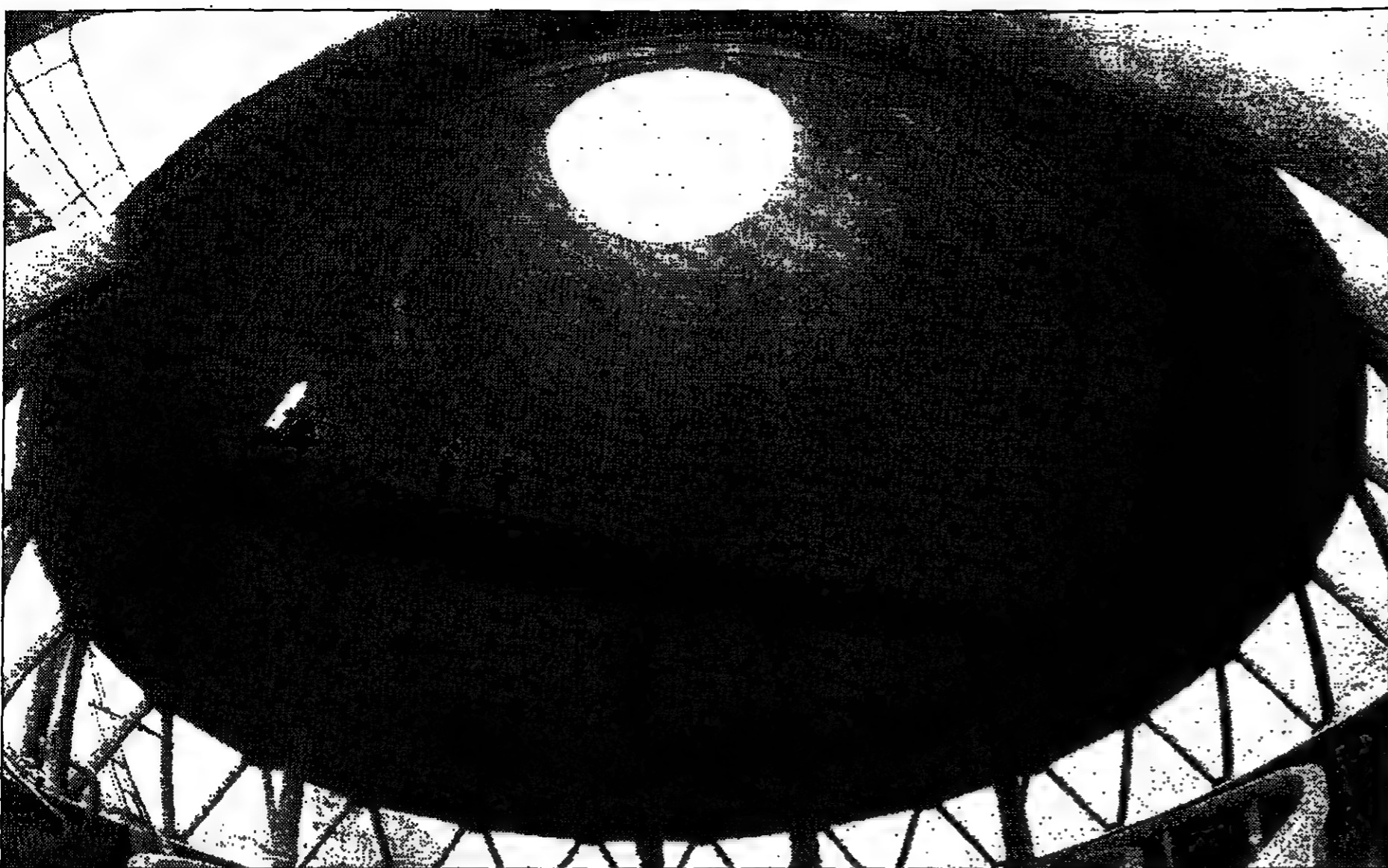
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Canada 1.8875	Hong Kong 11.48	New Zealand 2.15	Sweden 10.58
Cyprus 0.7020	India 51.51	Norway 9.58	Switzerland 178
Denmark 8.55	Ireland 0.94	Portugal 227.00	Turkey 106.131
Finland 7.08	Kwai 4.77	Saudi Arabia 5.65	USA 1.4750

David Pearson

Death Notices

Memorandum

Dear Sir



Old tech... The British Steel cooling tower at Felindre, near Swansea, is to be demolished in the hope of attracting investment to the former tinsplate works. PHOTOGRAPH BY JEFFREY MORGAN

# Valley of the info technocrats

WORKFACE/ Geoffrey Gibbs examines a plan aimed at reviving the decaying former Welsh mining communities

**I**NNOVATIVE proposals for the creation of a technology-based "industrial village" are being put before government as the means of rescuing a once-thriving South Wales valley from the cycle of decline and deprivation that has followed the collapse of the coal mining industry.

The proposals, drawn up by Peter Hain, Labour MP for Neath, and officers from the Neath and Port Talbot County Borough Council, are aimed at bringing some 900 jobs to the Dulais Valley where Blaenau, the valley's last deep mine, closed in 1990.

Mr Hain, who outlined the plans at a meeting at the Welsh Office yesterday, believes the concept could be applied to other declining communities and is seeking priority funding support for the pilot project.

In an impassioned plea to Welsh Secretary William Hague ahead of yesterday's meeting, Mr Hain warned: "The Valleys are dying." Long-term unemployment was desperately high and new jobs were often part-time and always low-paid, he said.

"Where the old stereotype was of a miner on a decent industrial wage with a wife at home, now it is his wife who is working, on a third or, at best, half his earnings, with the husband kicking his heels at home. This is a recipe for despair and social disintegration."

Mutual help and support — pride of Valley people — were being destroyed. Crime had soared, drugs were rampant and young people had no future. "We cannot let those once vibrant, enterprising communities die. It is no good pretending the Valleys can become mere commuter belts for the M4 corridor. Transport is poor. People are used to working near their homes. We need a new economic agenda for the Valleys based on partnership between government and private enterprise."

# Taxpayers 'to pay for nuclear clean-up'

Chris Barrie on a damning analysis of Whitehall's pre-privatisation proposals

**T**HE taxpayer runs the serious risk of footing the bill for shutting down nuclear power stations unless the industry is forced to raise its contribution to the long-term clean-up costs by more than 10 times, an authoritative report reveals.

With privatisation of British Energy and its eight atomic power stations slated for July, the study, by an independent specialist in nuclear economics, insists that the company should pay £206 million a year into the special fund set up to finance long-term decommissioning of the reactors. At minimum £127 million a year is needed.

By contrast, the Government has set annual contributions of just £16 million, much lower than previous estimates, including one of £50 million by BZW, the bankers advising ministers on the sell-off. The scale of payments to the segregated fund is crucial in reassuring prospective investors that long-term liabilities can be funded without undermining dividends and profits.

contributions so low is tantamount to taxpayer subsidy of privatisation. As such the decision could be in breach of European rules on state aid. He also points out that other electricity generators would have legitimate grounds for complaint since nuclear stations would clearly not be bearing their full generation costs. Mr Sadrnicki says that allowing British Energy to pay less than £127 million is "diverting cash away from future liabilities towards current profits and dividends". Forcing British Energy to make higher contributions to the fund would cramp its profitability and worry potential investors. The Government agreed to the formation of a segregated fund to reassure the public that there would be money ring-fenced to pay for clean-up operations at nuclear stations long after they have ceased operating. Ministers said the move would ensure that liabilities did not fall to taxpayers by default. Commissioned by Friends of the Earth and the Consortium of Opposing Local Authorities, Mr Sadrnicki's report suggests the ministerial pledges were "hollow promises" and that the Government and British Energy have revised the original underlying assumptions behind the fund in seven ways. The scope of the fund will exclude crucial liabilities, such as the management and disposal of intermediate and high-level waste, the reprocessing of the final core after the seven advanced gas-cooled reactors (AGRs) have closed and the defuelling of an AGR station immediately after shut-down. Ministers have also assumed healthy investment rates for the fund, even though the period in question — 180 years — is too long for confident prediction.

## Bad times still good at Tesco

### Outlook

**Pauline Springett**

**T**HE loyalty card is a success. The petrol price war could knock £30 million off this year's profits (but is not a disaster), the BEB scare has halved beef sales (but they are recovering), and a clutch of supermarkets are under construction. Oh yes, and Tesco's figures were quite good as well.

Steady, the stock market did not share Tesco's own enthusiasm for its results yesterday. This was partly triggered by the announcement by chairman Sir Ian MacLaurin that dividend growth would be lower than before.

Sir Ian made reassuring noises by saying that dividends would still be increased. He explained that the company simply wanted to spend more on UK stores and European acquisitions.

Of more serious concern to the market was the revelation

Stock market value	£6,196.0m	
Share price	287p ▲ 3p	
Workforce	153,000*	
Interest cover	17	
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>%</b>
Sales	13,028m	+19.8
Pre-tax profit	875m	+22.5
Earnings before	22.3p	+17.5
Dividend/share	9.8p	+11.8

Market share  
12 months to December, %

1993	10.7
1994	12.0
1995	12.6

**Tesco**

THE Redland building materials group is to become the largest European supplier of roofing products and services, with pre-forma sales of £1.3 billion in 1995, after a restructuring of its roofing businesses announced yesterday. The group is merging with Braas & Co, a German roof tiling company in which it already has a 50.75 per cent stake. Redland said that as part of the deal it would receive £220 million in cash for contributing its directly owned roofing business, and would increase its stake to 56.5 per cent of the new Redland-Braas Building Group. The remaining 43.5 per cent will be owned by the existing minority shareholders of Braas. — Tony May

### Money back guarantee

REUTERS, the international news and information group, hopes to resolve the question of how to return surplus cash to shareholders by the end of the year. The company's cash pile grew to £260 million in 1995 but chief executive Peter Job has not put a figure on how much it plans to return to shareholders. The company carried out a 350 million share buy-back in 1993. Revenue in the first quarter of 1996 rose by 14 per cent over the same quarter of 1995 to £713 million, but the group warned that revenue growth from information products was slowing. — Tony May

### Hanson power play

HANSON has raised \$84 million from the sale of its Eveready South Africa subsidiary to the US corporation DuPont Inc. The Anglo-American conglomerate said the deal was a further step in its demerger programme. Derek Bonham, Hanson's chief executive, said Eveready South Africa had sales of \$84 million in the year to September 30, 1995. — Reuters

### News in brief

#### Societies up stakes in takeover game

**BUILDING societies** around the country yesterday boosted their minimum opening balances in response to an epidemic of speculative investment since the takeover of Bristol & West by Bank of Ireland on Monday.

Birmingham Midshires increased its opening level from £100 to £1,500 at 17 of its branches. The level at the rest of its network was set at £500. This follows a surge of new account openings on speculation that the society may be taken over by the Woolwich, Leeds & Holbeck, another society tipped for a takeover, raised its minimum opening balance yesterday to £1,000 while the Chelsea raised its to £2,500. — Cliff Jones

#### Insurer's profits dampener

COMMERCIAL Union, the UK's largest composite insurer, said yesterday that bad weather in the UK and the US at the beginning of the year would make first-quarter profits "soggy". Poor weather in the US cost the company £12 million in January, said chief executive John Carter. He added that the first quarter figures would nevertheless show a rise in profits because of the impact of investment returns. — Pauline Springett

#### Keeping up with Jones

SHAREHOLDERS of BICC, the cables and construction group, voted through proposals which will give new chief executive Alan Jones a cash and shares bonus worth up to 75 per cent of his basic average salary over a three-year period. Mr Jones, who joined BICC in April last year, was paid a basic salary of £266,800 for the eight months to the year's end — equivalent to an annual £400,275. The award will be paid half in cash and half in shares. Other executive directors and senior managers will also be eligible for bonus awards up to a maximum of half their average basic pay based on the last 24 months of the three-year period. — Tony May

#### Redland raises the roof

**THE Redland building materials group** is to become the largest European supplier of roofing products and services, with pre-forma sales of £1.3 billion in 1995, after a restructuring of its roofing businesses announced yesterday. The group is merging with Braas & Co, a German roof tiling company in which it already has a 50.75 per cent stake. Redland said that as part of the deal it would receive £220 million in cash for contributing its directly owned roofing business, and would increase its stake to 56.5 per cent of the new Redland-Braas Building Group. The remaining 43.5 per cent will be owned by the existing minority shareholders of Braas. — Tony May

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سكنيا من الاجل

Racing

Salasabil backed for another day

Nell Gwyn upset sees runner-up cut for fillies' classics. Chris Hawkins reports

THRILLING DAY, who is not entered for the 1,000 Guineas, sprung a 20-1 surprise when beating Bint Salsabil a short head in the Shadwell Stud Nell Gwyn Stakes at Newmarket yesterday.

Neil Graham, the trainer of Thrilling Day, had opposite worries about his filly and it was the question mark over her stamina which influenced him against entering her for the Guineas.

In forward condition and landed a double with Sharpas and Dovajy, the latter flooring the well-touted Sacho who is determined to run in the Museum Maiden Stakes.

Swinburn out of 2,000 Guineas

WALTER SWINBURN has lost the battle to be fit to partner Royal Applause in the 2,000 Guineas following his life-threatening fall to Hong Kong two months ago, writes Chris Hawkins.

"I'm seeing the doctor again on Friday, but the shoulder blade is still causing me problems and to be fair to Barry Hills I've told him I won't be fit to ride," said Swinburn at Newmarket yesterday.

Cayman Kai can keep up the Hannon run

CAYMAN KAI looks the pick of a disappointing field of six for today's European Free Handicap at Newmarket. Richard Hannon has hit form early and Cayman Kai has been well tuned.

Desert Boy won the Convivial Stakes at York on firm ground when holding on by a short-head from subsequent winner Leonora.

behind Kahr Almyayan. That was too bad to be true and as the stable lad makes a mistake in assessing an animal he will surely win a decent race or two this season.

In the Gimcrack Stakes, but my choice is Cayman Kai (3.40), who showed a lot of speed to win the Flying Childers Stakes at Doncaster and was then a highly respectable runner-up to Blue Iris in the Redcar Two-Year-Old Trophy.

er in the Racing Channel Fillies Handicap. She bolted in by seven lengths in a fast time on her reappearance, but that was on the all-weather track at Wolverhampton.



Tipped... Thrilling Day (left) gets a short-head verdict over Bint Salsabil in yesterday's Nell Gwyn Stakes

Newmarket with form for the televised events

Table listing race results for Newmarket, including race numbers, names, and times. Includes sections for 2.00, 2.35, 3.05, 3.40, 4.15, 4.45, 5.20, and 5.50.

Pontefract runners and riders

Table listing race results for Pontefract, including race numbers, names, and times. Includes sections for 2.00, 2.35, 3.05, 3.40, 4.15, 4.45, 5.20, and 5.50.

Results

Table listing race results for various events, including race numbers, names, and times. Includes sections for 2.00, 2.35, 3.05, 3.40, 4.15, 4.45, 5.20, and 5.50.

Cheltenham National Hunt card

Table listing race results for Cheltenham National Hunt, including race numbers, names, and times. Includes sections for 2.00, 2.35, 3.05, 3.40, 4.15, 4.45, 5.20, and 5.50.

Results

Table listing race results for various events, including race numbers, names, and times. Includes sections for 2.00, 2.35, 3.05, 3.40, 4.15, 4.45, 5.20, and 5.50.

Results

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RACELINE 0930 1684. NEWMARKET POINTFRACT CHELTENHAM IRELAND. Includes race numbers and names.

0930 1684. NEWMARKET POINTFRACT CHELTENHAM IRELAND. Includes race numbers and names.

Vertical text on the left margin: 'yers for ar -up', 'aming analysis of valuation propos', '1/0 PR rate ever', 'AMILTON', '30 3000'.

Soccer

England gamble on Operation Shearer

David Lacey
ALAN SHEARER'S chances of becoming a major influence in the European Championship...

David Lacey
nand, who scored the winner against Bulgaria, is likely to keep his place alongside Terry in England's starting line-up...

David Lacey
his England place. He may still be Venables' first choice and if he scores this evening he will have sealed 30 Premier League goals...



Wilcox... left-wing cover

David Lacey
Ever the optimist, Venables cited Gascoigne's experience with a similar groin injury...

David Lacey
If the further absence of Shearer enables Venables to continue exploring attacking options, the loss of Gareth Southgate and Steve Howey...



Double whammy... Alan Shearer faces Wimbledon tonight, the surgeon's knife tomorrow

First Division: Sunderland 3, Birmingham 0
Sunderland on the brink

Michael Walker
ONE LAST heave and Sunderland will be playing Premier League football next season...

Michael Walker
Stewart's critics have never questioned his heading ability but have voiced concerns about his footwork...

Scots fear for Ferguson

Patrick Glenn
DUNCAN FERGUSON, the Everton striker, may be ruled out of the European Championship...

Patrick Glenn
morning after the exertions of a night match. "If he needs an operation any time between now and Euro '96 we'll have to forget him..."

Patrick Glenn
championship would come from them. "The loss of Ferguson will not help Brown's search for a recognised first-choice attack..."

All agog on the Tyne with tensions at breaking point

Michael Walker on another emotional night for the one-team city of Newcastle

Michael Walker
players who haven't been in this situation: so have Manchester United. It's going to be new to them...

Pallister comeback hope

GARY FALLISTER may provide a stimulus for both club and country by making his comeback for Manchester United...

GARY FALLISTER
Ferguson said: "I will give Gary every chance. He has done everything asked of him in training and he is certainly one to consider..."

GARY FALLISTER
Venison, who has been suffering from back problems in recent weeks. Coventry, seeking a win that would take them out of the relegation zone...

Watford 4, Reading 2
White at double

Mark Reading
EASTER is now but a distant memory and rejoicing over the resurrection of the Messiah long forgotten...

Mark Reading
he with both sides employing a fashionable if flimsy three-at-the-back formation, and in the 37th minute Watford's 18-year-old Connolly obliged with a deft low strike from Ramage's through-ball...

Sport in brief
Rugby Union
Newcastle's manager Rob Andrew yesterday signed three more players...

Snooker
Peter Ebdon, warming up for the Embassy World Championship which begins this weekend...

Sailing
Second and 10th places were good enough for Robert Scheidt of Brazil to hold off Britain's Ben Ainslie...

Results

English League First Division
Preston (1) 1, Luton 0; Norwich (1) 1, Middlesbrough 0; Blackburn (1) 2, Cardiff 0...

Rugby Union

Rugby Union
Worcester (1) 25, Gloucester (1) 19; Exeter (1) 22, Bath (1) 19; London Wasps (1) 24, London Welsh (1) 19...

Baseball

Baseball
Cleveland (1) 7, Boston (1) 6; Toronto (1) 5, Detroit (1) 4; Tampa Bay (1) 7, St. Petersburg (1) 6...

Basketball

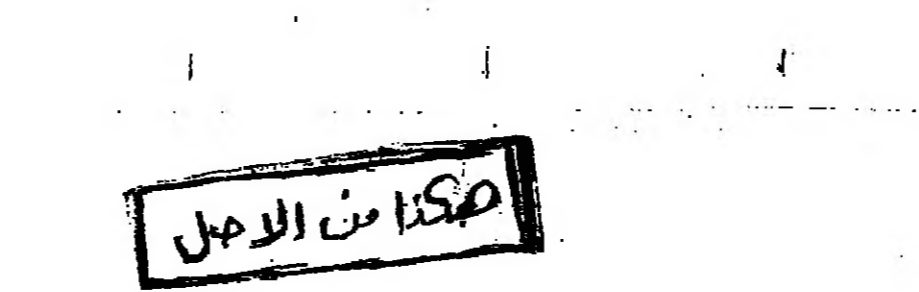
Basketball
Miami (1) 110, New Jersey (1) 105; Toronto (1) 83, Seattle (1) 78; Houston (1) 102, Indiana (1) 83...

Chess

Chess
Premier Division
Preston (1) 1, Aberdeen (1) 1; Livingston (1) 0, South 2...

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Brentford 24 Man. United 01 Tottenham Hot. 07
Burnley 31 Middlebrough 23 West Ham 12
Chelsea 06 Millwall 29 Wimbledon 26
Coventry City 17 Newcastle Utd 16 Wolves 25
Derby County 28 Norwich City 18 Celtic 06
Everton 06 Nottm. Forest 13 Rangers 09
Hudd. Town 32 QPR 25

Cricket
Three-day matches (11.30)
Essex v Cambridge Univ v Glamorgan v Warwickshire
Essex v Cambridge Univ (1st Day)
Essex 107, Cambridge 107, Glamorgan 107, Warwickshire 107



CRICKET: THE COUNTIES CAST THEIR VOTES FOR TWO ENGLAND SELECTORS

Gooch stock rises as Lord's sweats on Beefy

Paul Weaver finds growing support for a former Test captain and an England legend

THE announcement will not be made until tomorrow, and the counties have until midnight tonight to make up their minds...

executive Alan Smith. "I'm perfectly happy with all of them. All eight are very good people and I don't find it unhealthy to have that many candidates...



Kim Barnett Age 35. Tests 4 (1988-89) HIGHEST score of 80, against Australia in 1989. Nominated for England selector by Derbyshire...



Brian Bolus Age 52. Tests 7 (1963-64) PRIVILEGED, along with Edrich, Illingworth's personal choice again...



Ian Botham Age 40. Tests 102 (1977-92) ENGLAND'S leading bowler (383 wickets) and one of the best all-rounders ever...



Chris Cowdrey Age 38. Tests 6 (1984-88) HAS been in marketing and consultancy work since his retirement...



John Edrich Age 58. Tests 77 (1963-75) AN Illingworth preference, the gritty former Surrey left-handed opener scored more than 5,000 Test runs...



Graham Gooch Age 42. Tests 113 (1975-85) NOMINATED by Essex and has backed Botham's candidature...



David Graveney Age 43. No Tests SECRETARY of the Cricketers' Association, the players' union...



Geoff Miller Age 43. Tests 34 (1976-84) HAS made a career of after-dinner speaking since retiring as all-rounder for England...

Another injury for Johnson

RICHARD JOHNSON, the 21-year-old Middlesex fast bowler who missed England's tour of South Africa with a stress fracture to the back, has been forced out of the season's first serious fixture with a shoulder strain...



Unionising league... Scott Quinnell recalls his days as a Lanelli and Wales forward as he jumps at the chance of line-out practice with Wigan...

Rugby League Nickle clear as Matautia waits

SONNY NICKLE, Bradford Bulls' second-row forward, was yesterday cleared of foul play after being placed on report during Sunday's Super League match against his former club St Helens at Knowsley Road...

Hockey Britain beef it up for second win

THE Great Britain men's team defeated Argentina, the Pan American champions, for the fifth time in six matches but this 2-0 win in the pre-Olympic event here said more about their opponents' missed chances...

London Marathon Costly challenge to Ceron hat-trick

DIONICIO CERON is taking nothing for granted as he aims to extend his supremacy in Sunday's London Marathon. The Mexican, winner for the past two years, starts favourites for an unprecedented hat-trick...

Tennis Muster tries Queen's gambit

THOMAS MUSTER, who lost his world No. 1 ranking to Pete Sampras last Sunday, is to make his debut at the Stella Artois Championships in the grass of Queen's Club from June 10 to 18...

Badminton Penalty lifts harassed Hall

DARREN HALL had to overcome illness, a dispute with the umpire, and the most dangerous first-round opponent in the draw at the European Championships here in Denmark yesterday...

BRITAIN'S PAUL ROSEY, D. Luckes, J. West, J. Haines, D. Fordham, K. Taylor, S. Brown, C. Mayer, N. Daniels, M. Pinner, J. Lambert, N. Thompson, S. Bell, J. Smith, J. Gower, R. Thompson

ARGENTINA'S P. Morozoff, J. Castellanos, D. Quintero, C. Morales, E. Peltzer, P. Lombardi, A. Delgado, C. Rodriguez, J. Lombardi, S. Caporaso, L. Bignardi, R. Rodriguez, S. Morgan (USA), Y. Choi (Korea)

Duncan Mackay in Boston

QUESTIONS were being asked last night about new technology due to be used in the Flora London Marathon on Sunday and this summer's Olympic Games...

Runners have long wait as Boston chips go down

runner-up Ezekiel Bitok's time that he took to run the race. But London will issue the chip only to elite runners and will use a full back-up system...

Runners have long wait as Boston chips go down

There were 38,706 registered runners and 2,000 "bandits" in Monday's race more than three times the usual total.

